

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A laundry machine comprising:
a cabinet;
a drum mounted in the cabinet;
a mist generating device adapted to convert water to mist, whereby the water is supplied as a mist into the drum; and

a mist transporting conduit having an inlet and an outlet, the mist transporting conduit being arranged downstream from the mist generating device, the inlet being connected to the mist generating device and the outlet arranged to deliver mist to the drum.

2. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 1, wherein the mist generating device comprises:

a case adapted to allow water to pass therethrough;
diffusion means provided at an inlet portion of the case, and adapted to diffuse water introduced into the case, thereby converting the water to mist; and
a blowing fan adapted to forcibly feed, into the drum, the mist emerging from the diffusion means.

3. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 2, wherein the diffusion means comprises:

at least one centrifugal plate adapted to be rotated about an axis passing through a center thereof by a driving force; and
a diffusion net arranged around the centrifugal plate, and adapted to diffuse water radially projected from the centrifugal plate as mist.

4. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 3, wherein the at least one centrifugal plate comprises a plurality of centrifugal plates axially spaced apart from one another.

5. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 3, wherein the centrifugal plate and the blowing fan are rotated by a dual-shaft motor adapted to generate the driving force.

6. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 1, wherein the mist generating device comprises:

a case adapted to allow water to pass therethrough;

at least one centrifugal plate arranged in the case, and adapted to centrifugally radially project the water introduced into the case;

a diffusion net arranged around the centrifugal plate, and adapted to convert the water centrifugally radially projected from the centrifugal plate to mist when the water passes therethrough;

a blowing fan adapted to forcibly feed, into the drum, the mist emerging from the diffusion net; and

drive means adapted to rotate the centrifugal plate and the blowing fan.

7. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 1, further comprising a diffusion nozzle at the outlet of the mist transporting conduit.

8. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 1, further comprising:

a steam generating device installed at the mist transporting conduit, and adapted to heat the mist emerging from the mist generating device, thereby changing the mist into steam, and supplying the steam into the drum.

9. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 8, wherein the steam generating device comprises:

a container arranged at the mist transporting conduit, and adapted to allow the mist emerging from the mist generating device to pass therethrough; and
a heater adapted to heat the mist passing through the container.

10. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 9, wherein the steam generating device further comprises:

temperature sensing means adapted to measure an internal temperature of the container.

11. (Currently Amended) A—The laundry machine according to claim 1, further comprising:

a cabinet;

a tub located in the cabinet, ~~and the tub being adapted to contain water therein, and the drum being rotatably mounted in the tub; and~~

~~a drum rotatably mount in the tub;~~

~~a mist generating device adapted to convert water to mist; and~~

a diffusion nozzle adapted to spray the mist into the drum.

12. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 11, wherein the sprayed mist is directed from the top and front end of the drum toward the bottom and rear end of the drum.

13. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 11, further comprising:

a circulation line connected between a portion of the tub and another portion of the tub;
and

a pump installed at the circulation line, and adapted to forcibly feed water through the circulation line to circulate the water through the tub.

14. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 13, wherein the mist generating device is provided at the circulation line and the diffusion nozzle is provided at an outlet end of the circulation line.

15. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 14, further comprising a gasket fitted around an access opening of the tub, and wherein the outlet end of the circulation line is extended through a top portion of the gasket.

Claims 16-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 1, further comprising a water transporting conduit having an inlet and an outlet, the inlet being adapted to receive water from the drum, and the outlet being connected to the mist generating device.

22. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 21, further comprising a pump arranged at the water transporting conduit.

23. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 1, further comprising a water-supply unit configured to supply water into the drum.

24. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 1, wherein the laundry machine is a washing machine.

25. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 11, further comprising a water-supply unit configured to supply water into the tub.

26. (Currently Amended) A laundry machine comprising:
a cabinet;
a tub located in the cabinet, and adapted to contain water therein;
a drum rotatably mounted in the tub;
a mist generating device adapted to convert water into mist; and
a steam generating device adapted to heat the water mist to change the water-mist into steam;
a circulation line including the mist generating device and the steam generating device,
the circulation line being connected between a portion of the tub and another portion of the tub;
and
a pump installed at the circulation line, the pump being adapted to forcibly feed water
through the circulation line to circulate the water through the tub.

27. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 26, wherein the steam is directed from the top and front end of the drum toward the bottom and rear end of the drum.

Claims 28 and 29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended) The laundry machine according to claim ~~29~~26, further comprising a gasket fitted around an access opening of the tub, and wherein the outlet end of the circulation line is extended through a top portion of the gasket.

31. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 30, wherein the steam generating device heats the mist to generate steam.

32. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 31, wherein the mist is converted to steam while flowing through the steam generating device.

33. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 26, further comprising a diffusion nozzle configured to spray the mist or the steam.

34. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine according to claim 26, further comprising a water-supply unit configured to supply water into the tub.